



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2020

WHI01/1C

Pearson Edexcel International GCE

In History (WHI0) Paper 1C

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IA Level History (1C: Germany, 1918-45)

WHI01: International Advanced Subsidiary

It is important that centres take on board some generic comments which are based on the marking of the January cohort, and consider and apply these when preparing candidates for future examinations in this option.

- WHI01 is both a study in depth and a study of interpretations, and it is necessary for candidates to do both, at all levels in the mark scheme, in order to score marks. Ignoring the stated view in the question, and merely writing information that may be relevant to the general focus of the question does not fully meet the criteria for Level 1, and consequently none of the other levels. Even at Level 1 the mark scheme expects simple or generalised consideration of the stated view in the question. Some candidates paid very little attention to the stated view (ignoring it completely or sometimes only referring to it in the conclusion) and narrated or described other information that was either relevant or not to the actual question.
- Across all of the questions, in candidate responses, there was very little evidence seen of planning. As the examination is two hours long, implying that candidates might divide that time equally between the two essays they choose, it would seem sensible to devote some time (possibly no more than 10 minutes per question) to planning the structure of the answer to each question. That would hopefully ensure that when the answer is written the stated view is considered (Level 2, 3 and 4 all require, to varying degrees, understanding, analysis and exploration of the given view) and then other factors/views can follow, which will then allow the candidate to establish some criteria by which they are able to consider the importance, or not, of the given view and make some judgements. Those candidates who planned (this appeared on their examination script before they answered the question) invariably scored better than candidates who had not planned. Planned answers tended to score at the top of Level 3 and into, and including the top of Level 4, whereas unplanned answers meandered and judgements tended to be stated, rather than supported by valid criteria, and often achieved marks at the Level 2 and Level 3 boundary or below.
- The need to stress to candidates that in examination situations they must read the question carefully, and not take the question as an opportunity to write all they know about the topic, or answer a question they would have preferred that is near to the actual question, but not the actual question.
- There was some evidence of candidates running out of time, but they were very few. Impressing the need to plan essays in the examination is surely the remedy to this problem.

Option 1C Germany 1918-45

- All questions were attempted. Question 1 and 2 proved to be the most popular combination.
- In question 1 candidates did consider that the years 1924-29 were not Golden Years, but judged that on balance they were in many respects. A good range of issues were used in candidate evaluations of the interpretation.

Put a cross in the box indicating the FIRST question you have chosen to answer.
If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your
new question with a cross

Chosen question number: Question 1 Question 2
Question 3 Question 4

Sec 25

(This page is for your first answer)

During the years 1924-29 weimar republic faced a period of time that was evidently prosperous as compared to the later and after years but not all faced the "golden years" not all german were experiencing prosperity as the economy started to stabilize and production started to increase there were some gainers and losers from the golden years.

The golden years can be described as an illusion of some sort where some aspects of life were indeed well progressing but not all of the german people benefited from it so that does in fact suggest that it might have not been as golden as it is described.

This was at a period of time when Stresemann introduced measures and policies in order to achieve some sort of economic stability in those years. As he introduced the Dawes plan that was an agreement with the US to allow that Germany was able to pay the reparations and also grow its economy at the same time using the US loans. One major disadvantage or drawback with this was that the US would



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Impact withdraw its loans at any given moment this meant that the golden years could only be golden if US was capable of giving Germany the loans.

Therefore it can be argued that the golden years were in fact a hoax and in reality was a period of dependence on foreign aid coming from the US in order to fulfill the payment of reparations. Therefore the golden age was not in fact ~~completely~~ completely golden as it was based on uncertainty and the government itself was not in fact responsible and therefore had no control of whether it would last or not. Therefore proving that for Weimar to some extent the golden years was a phase of appeasement and fulfilment in order to gain sympathy from foreign countries (US, Britain, France).

Indeed, during this time Stresemann played a key role in cooperating with the ~~government~~ parliament that was formed. Therefore the parliament created during that time were less compared to previously and the rate of elections reduced as there was increased cooperation. However, the Weimar government still proved to be losing democratic votes and some votes shifting to extreme sides.



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despite prices that not all Germans were happy with the Weimar government meaning that it was not all "golden" for every German.

The limited or short term of political stability was due to the fact that political leaders eg Hitler was behind bars and there was less propaganda due to the fact that there was less hate to capitalize on. Although this does not mean that this period of time eliminated the extreme parties eg extreme left and extreme right this was argued that impact led to their development.

As this time led to the Nazi party regrouping and reorganizing its aims and developing new ways and tactics of gaining power. However it can be argued even though less active resistance was shown still it gave way for extreme groups to regroup and recreate new tactics and strategies. It also was beneficial to Weimar opposition as this time meant that industrialist had more money to spend on party propaganda and thus this period of time funded the propaganda and rallies that were held in opposition to Weimar republic.



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Therefore one can argue that the golden years were not in fact golden but a time of "rest" and absence of calam as people were getting their daily bread and hyperinflation had been removed.

To add hyperinflation was a period before the time that Germany was facing a big economic problem as they were trying to pay reparations and keep the people happy. The impact or effects of this period was still abundant during 1929 meaning that the effects were still long lasting. Middle class people who lost all their savings still did not have money saved up and did not receive compensation and therefore these people were more likely to join extreme groups e.g. for Nazis and in particular the Storm Troopers. Therefore the effects of hyperinflation were still evident in the "golden years" proving that in fact the "golden" years were not as golden as they were seen to be.

As many had to start over and grew resentment for the Weimar Republic due to this...



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Unemployment was still a major factor during this time. Less indeed more jobs were created but not all people had jobs. More than 80% of the unemployed were aged between (18 - 26) meaning many were youths. This therefore proved that more and more youth were joining extreme groups / parties in order to get daily bread - and they were told this means that the vegetation of Storm troopers almost doubled during this period.

During this time production increased but not as much as before 1938. This meant that local industries were not producing as much and Germany couldn't feed itself. Therefore Germany relied on imports as her own industries were not sufficient enough to support the country. Therefore the golden years was in fact a time of dependency on foreigners and a partnership in order to ensure that Germany took steps forward. And it wasn't completely golden as Germany's local industry was not efficient and people didn't reopen their factories because of the fear of another hyperinflation.



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However to some extent the period of 1924-1929 were in fact a time of golden years for Germany because of the Weimar Constitution it makes to the previous years of hyperinflation and the after years of a severe depression.

This time Germany saw great progress as the industries are restarting and employment was rising although insignificant nevertheless it was progress that meant that more Germans were employed the hunger rate reduced during the year people were healthier the child birth rate increased. This all shows evidence of prosperity and progress labeled as 'golden years'.

They can be classified as golden years if we take into consideration the restarting of old industries that made factory owners create revenue and start saving. It also helped the unemployment rate reduce as these new or restarting industries hired people meaning that job opportunities were created.



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and a little less people or youth were killed in the streets.

Due to the Dawes plan and Locarno pact the relationship of the German and foreign powers improved meaning that Germany was able to get back the Ruhr as they were able to pay some reparations by the aid of the Dawes plan. And also US investments were made in Germany this meant that Germany was improving due to the extra money circulating the economy.

This means that this paved way for more and more people being able to put food on their tables and less complaints from the general public. Although behind this as Hitler was behind here he used his court sessions as a propaganda tool to spread his messages that appealed to the German people's emotions meaning that even though during that time there were active actors this time built the basis and created the opening for new better ideologies and refined ideas from the



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Nazi party. However due to the fact that Weimar was able to stop the uprising in Munich plus that Weimar was able to defend its interests and hope was created in their minds for the Weimar Republic and therefore resulting in some support being given for the Weimar government by some parts of the German population. Therefore suggesting that it was in fact "golden years" for Weimar Germany.

Also there were less formations of governments and during that time businessmen could talk and cooperate with the governments that means that policies and legislation could be made faster. Therefore showing progress in Weimar Germany as during this time decisions could be made and laws could be passed showing that in fact there did contribute to the "golden" years of Germany.

Another key reason that can prove that in fact these years were in fact golden for Germany was the fact that more and more Germans had leisure time and could invest in treaties



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and many activities there was a growth in the Arts and culturally the German culture was expanding as more and more people had the capabilities to invest in houses and could afford to go out and eat/drink. This shows that it was prosperous and was in fact golden years for the German people.

In conclusion, Germany during that time can not be entirely classified as "golden years" because even though prosperity and progress was clearly evident Germany still portrayed major flaws that ultimately contributed to its downfall eg the amount of dependency it had on the US money, the lack of self sufficiency and the developing Nazi party. All these factors prove that in fact to some extent the golden years were in fact a illusion and were temporary ~~but~~ satisfactor or progress that lead to very serious consequences after.



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This response gained level 4 and was awarded full marks. The interpretation is evaluated and explored, knowledge has good range and depth and there are clear criteria used in reaching a judgement.

- In question 2 candidates were able to consider the success of elections against other factors in explaining the collapse of the Weimar Republic. Some candidates listed lots of reasons and never really addressed the interpretation.
- In question 3 many candidates were knowledgeable on methods of control and considered the interpretation of success.
- In question 4 candidates considered a range of factors that were reasons for German defeat but were limited in their knowledge regarding war at sea. The stated factor in the question is clearly identified in the specification. There was reward given to candidates who took the factor in a broad sense, but this impact their mark in relation to depth.

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